

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE WESTERN N. C. R. R. }
STATESVILLE, August, 1857. }

*To the President and Directors of the
Western North-Carolina Railroad Company:*

GENTLEMEN: As your By-laws require an annual exhibit of the past operations, as well as present condition, of each Department of your Company, I shall proceed briefly to state the duties performed, as well as the progress made, in the department under my charge.

At the last annual meeting of the Stockholders, I had the satisfaction of announcing to you that, in accordance with an order of your Board, a line had been located from Salisbury, on the North-Carolina Railroad, via Statesville and Newton, to Morganton, a distance of $77\frac{3}{4}$ miles, the estimated cost of which was \$2,035,069 50; but, in the same report, I also suggested that another line, leaving the located line about four miles east of Newton, and continuing on the Longcrier Ridge, would shorten the distance $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and reduce the cost \$176,887.

It will further be remembered that, in the same report, I also suggested that if the Longcrier Ridge line should be adopted, that then it would be perfectly practicable to connect near the Horse Ford, with a line which I traced, in 1854, along the valley of the Catawba, and thus obtain a favorable line westward.

At a meeting of your Board, on the 28th of August, 1856, I was not only directed to locate this line, but to make such other examinations west of Morganton, in view of passing the mountains, as, in my judgment, the interest of the Company demanded.